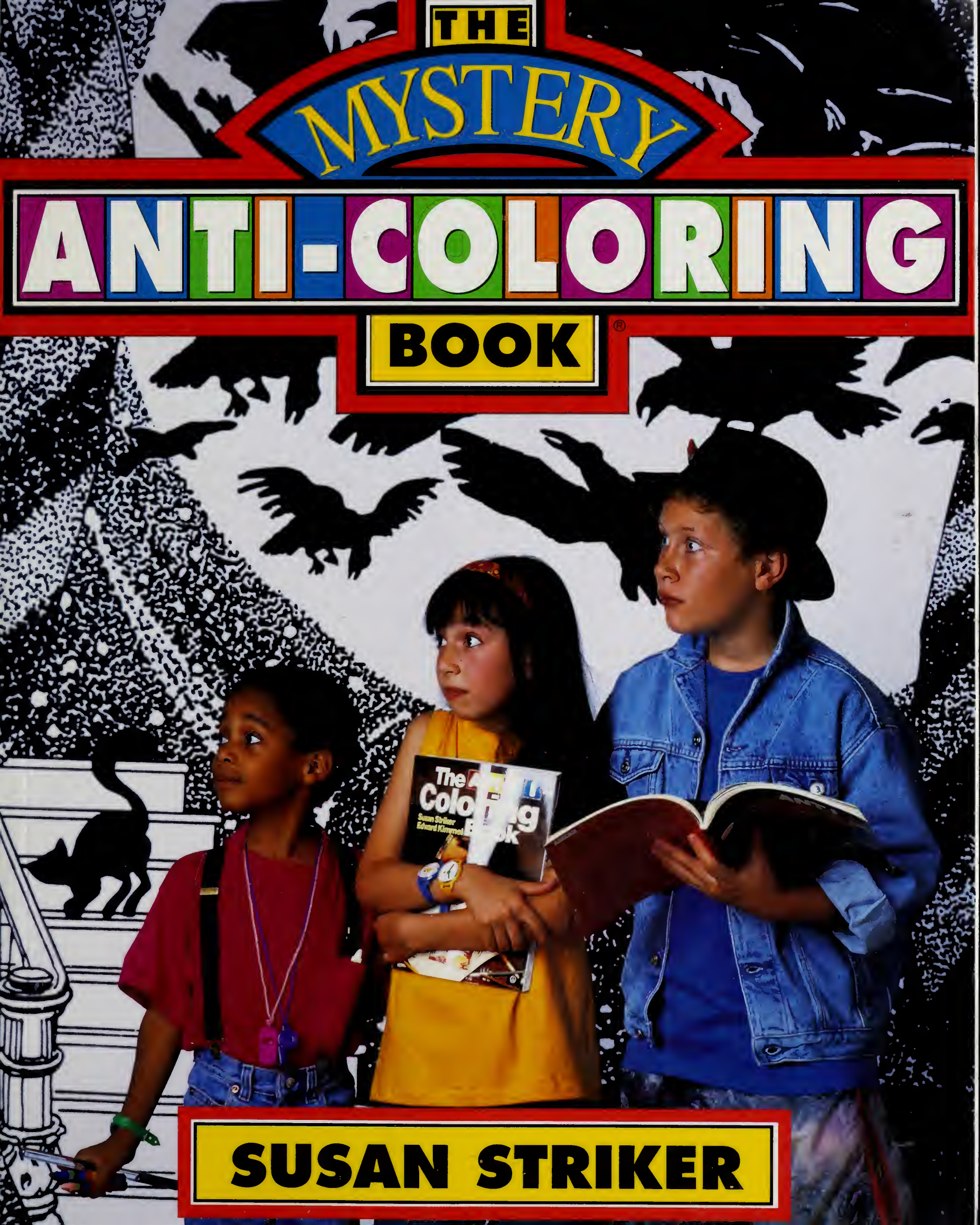




THE

MYSTERY

ANTI-COLORING

BOOK®

The Anti-Coloring Book
Susan Striker
Edward Klayman

SUSAN STRIKER





Other Works by Susan Striker Published by Henry Holt

The Anti-Coloring Book[®] (*with Edward Kimmel*)
The Second Anti-Coloring Book[®] (*with Edward Kimmel*)
The Third Anti-Coloring Book[®]
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The Inventor's Anti-Coloring Book[®]
The Newspaper Anti-Coloring Book[®]
The Circus Anti-Coloring Book[®] (*with Jason Striker*)
The Anti-Coloring Book[®] of Celebrations

THE
MYSTERY
ANTI-COLORING
BOOK®

Susan Striker

with illustrations by

Sally Schaedler

Susan Striker
Edward Kimmel

An Owl Book
Henry Holt and Company

*In loving memory of my mother, who died mysteriously this past year,
but whose love and support stay with me...
and for Bob, who revealed the mystery of second love and new beginnings...
and for Jason, whose first smile solved the mysteries of life for me.*

“To know is nothing at all; to imagine is everything.”
—Anatole France

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—Chris Tomasino, a loyal agent
—Peter and Leann Popielarski for sharing their childhood mystery books

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Introduction

We all love a good mystery! Wondering “whodunnit?” can absolutely make you tingle with anticipation. Looking for the answer can be a lot more fun than knowing what the answer is. Wondering, fantasizing, imagining...therein lies the excitement.

The greatest gifts we can give our children are curiosity and a sense of wonder. We can either help children solve problems by answering the questions for them or we can help them discover the excitement that open-ended questions can contain. We need to challenge young minds and stimulate young imaginations, not just acquaint them with facts and figures. Of course there are many “truths” that growing children need to be taught, but there are many more that they need to discover on their own.

As children look to us for approval, we must give it when they ask questions, not just when they find answers. There is no “right” answer to any of the problems presented in this book. A child can do the same project over and over again and come up with a different “right” answer every time. The curiosity, the drive to solve a problem is the spark we want to kindle. I have tried to present a balance of everyday mysteries with some of the world’s bigger mysteries, so you will find everything from cops ‘n’ robbers to the origin of the universe. You can help expand each experience for your child by letting go of your own preconceived notions. For example, when you get to the page about a Loch Ness monster, forget about any scientific explanations you may have read and set aside the soothing “there is no such thing.” Don’t provide answers, ask questions! “What does Nessie look like? What does it eat? Does it have a family? Is it big or small, furry or smooth, happy or sad? Do you think it is lonely, or are there more creatures like it in the loch?”

I, for one, much prefer wondering about the likelihood of a Loch Ness monster and what it might be like, than knowing for sure that there is no such thing! Wouldn’t you?

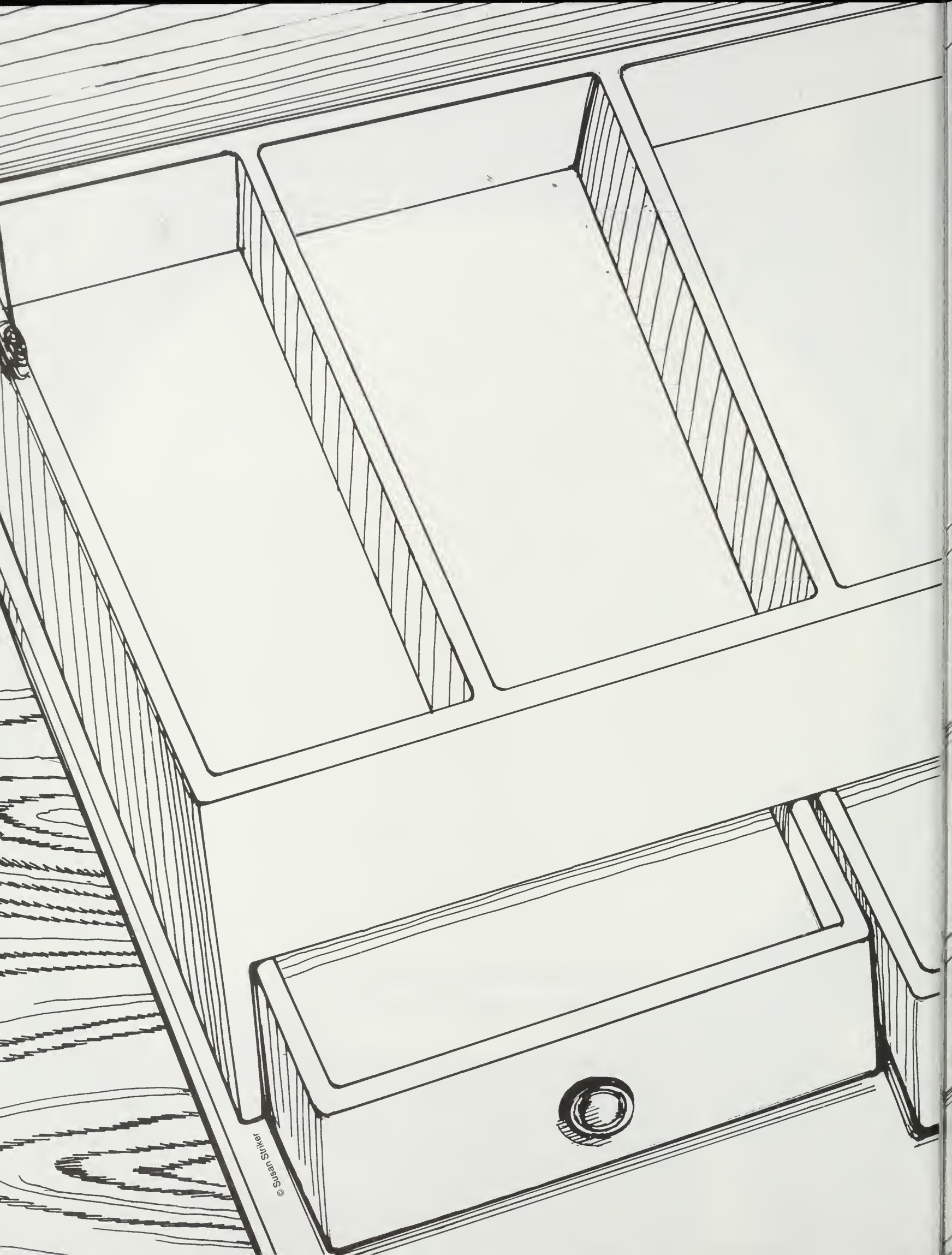


Paul Romanych, age 10



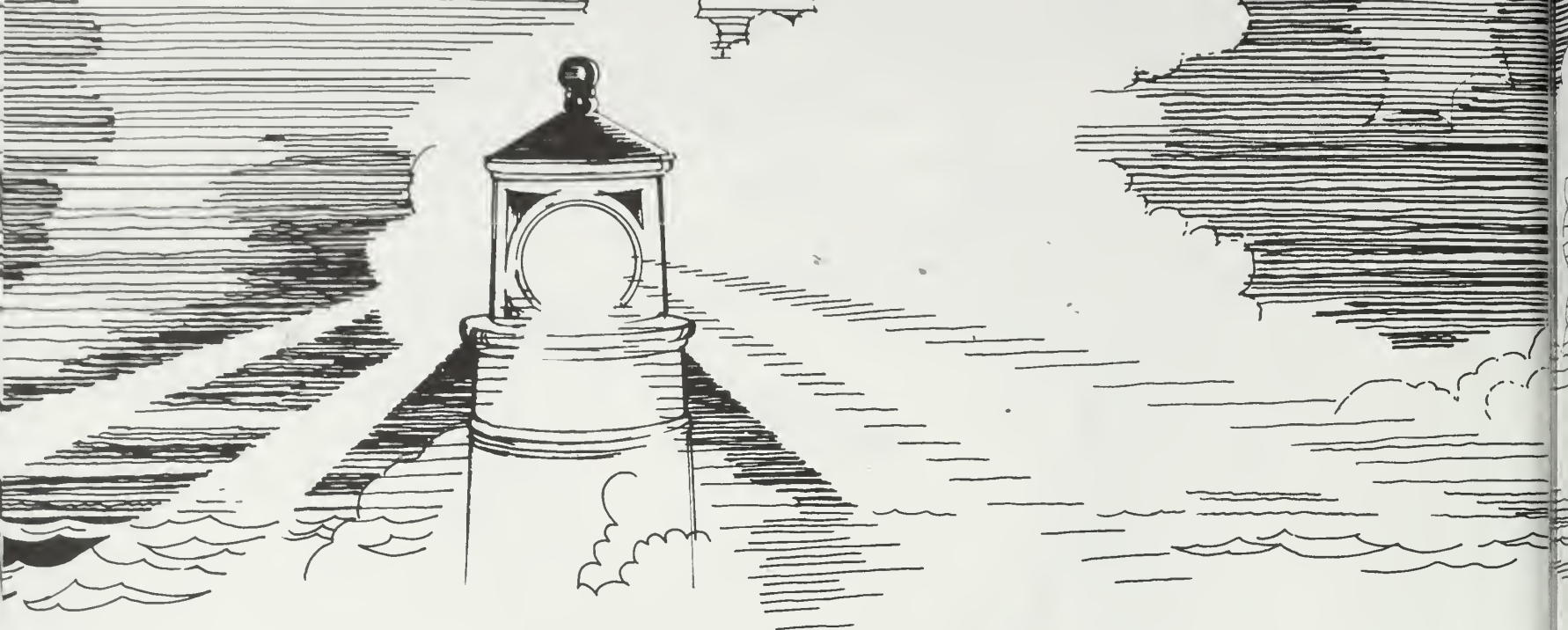
**You have achieved fame and fortune by
solving the mystery of the black hole!**

© Susan Striker



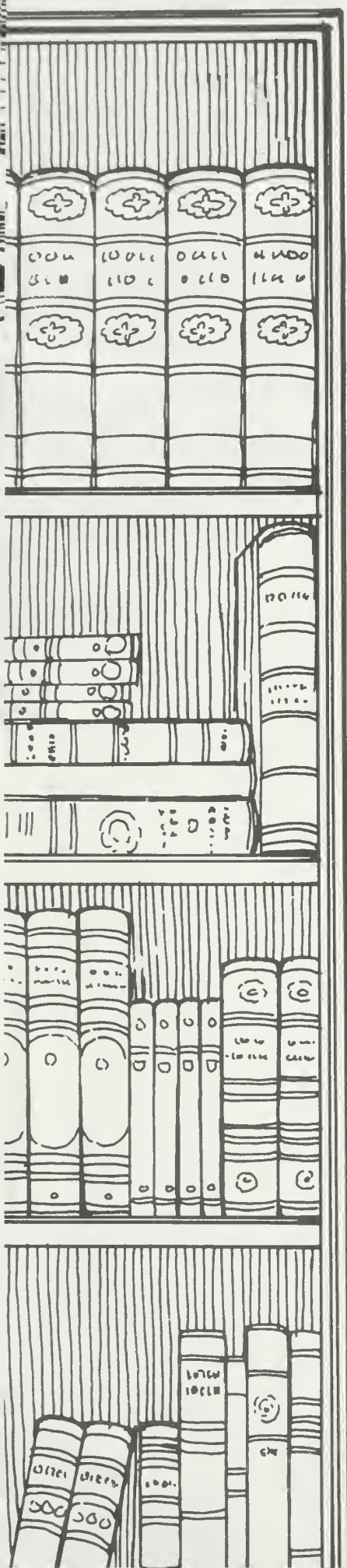
OFFICIAL
BURGLARY REPORT

These imitation jewels were placed in the velvet box
to replace the genuine ones, which were stolen.



When the beacon of light swept over the water,
the mystery of the shipwrecks was solved.





© Susan Striker

Suddenly, a panel in the wall noiselessly
slides open! What is behind it?

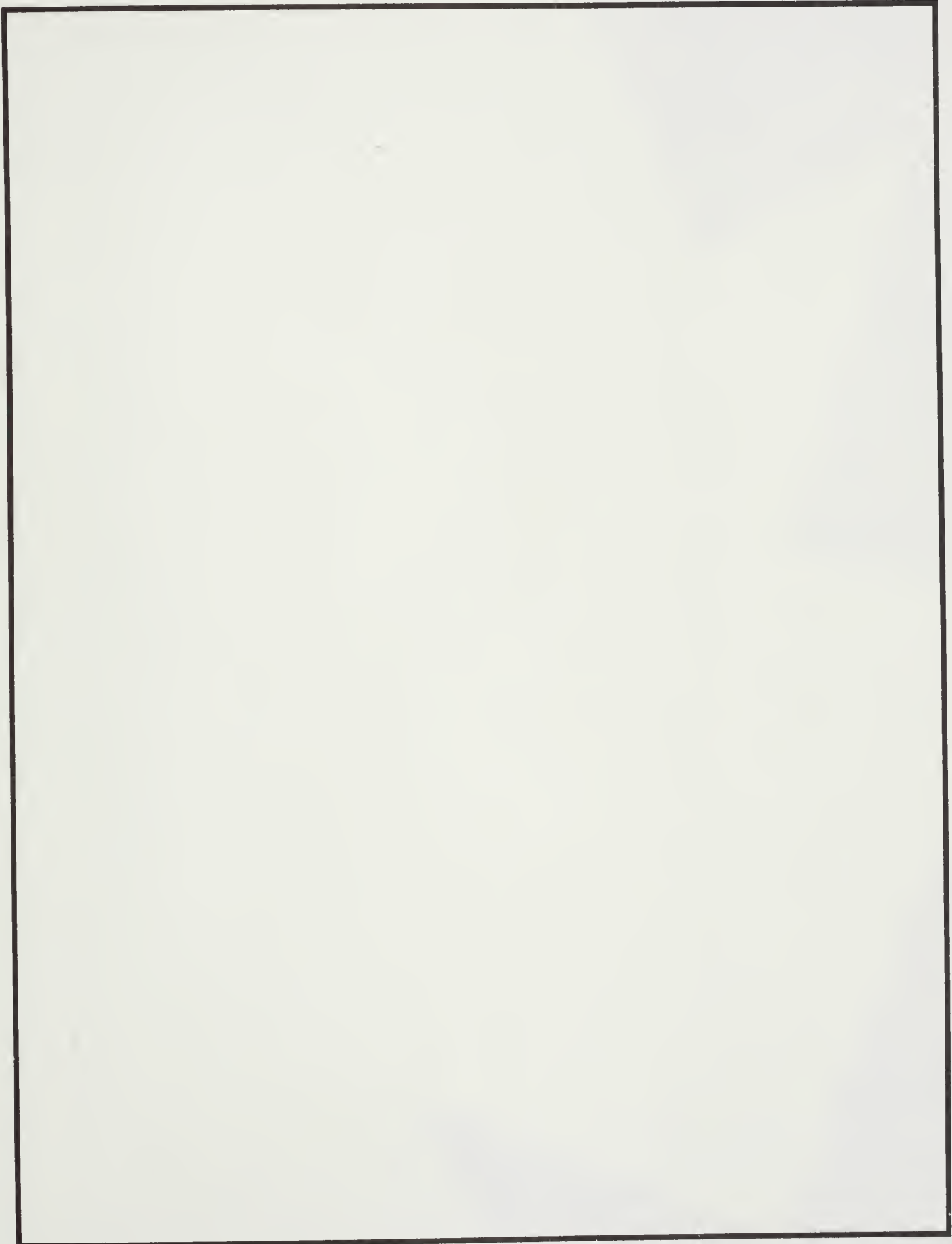




You have made a startling discovery while skin diving!

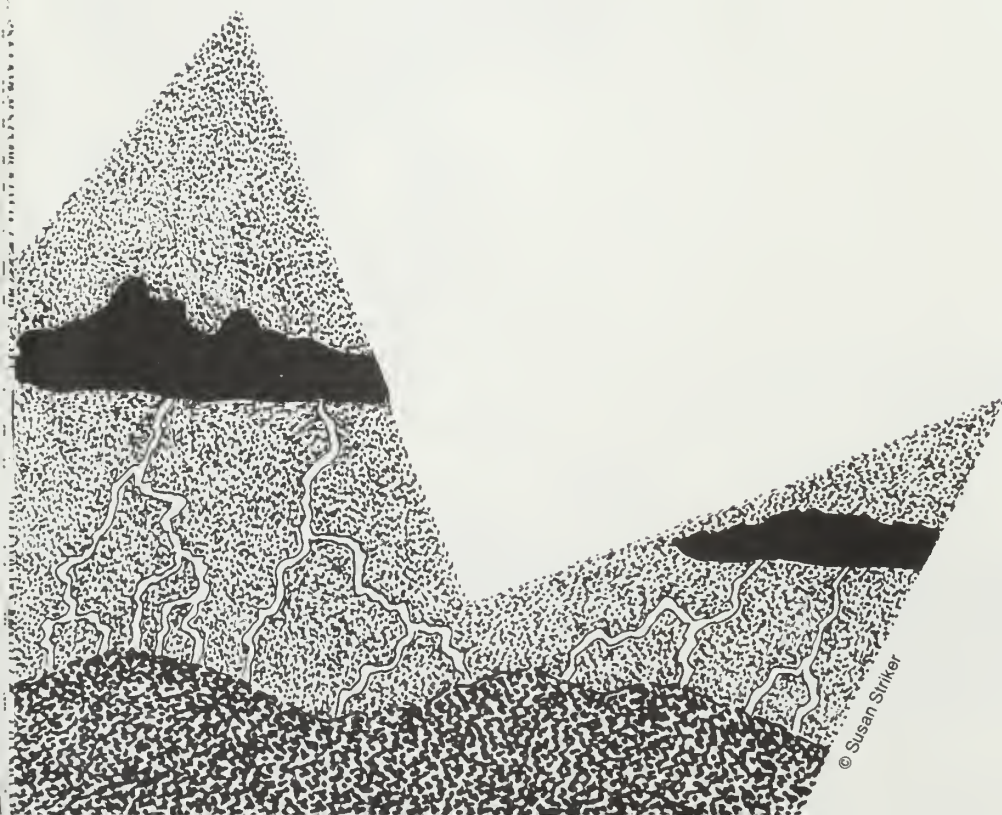


Draw a Picture of the Missing Person Here

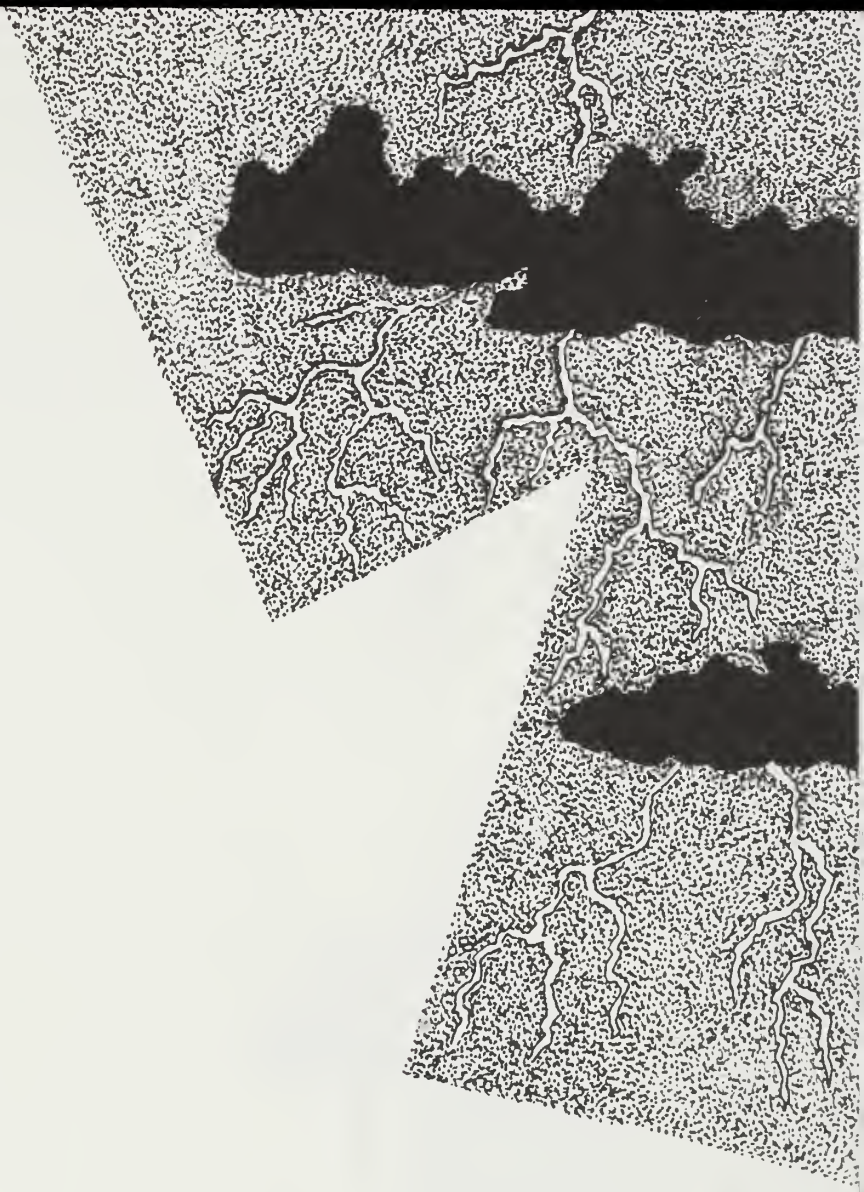
A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for drawing a picture of the missing person.

You can help the police by filling out this missing person report.

The flash of lightning revealed a surprise!



© Susan Striker

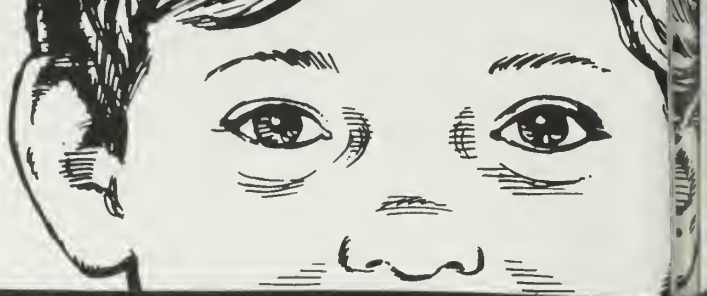




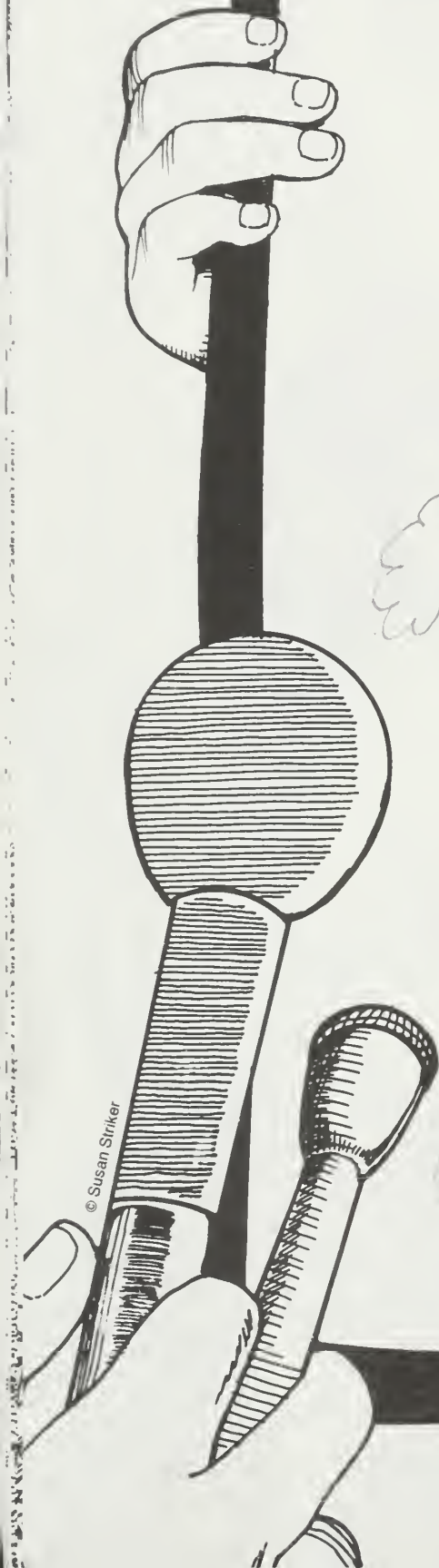


*From your hiding place in the bushes
you observe incredible things!*

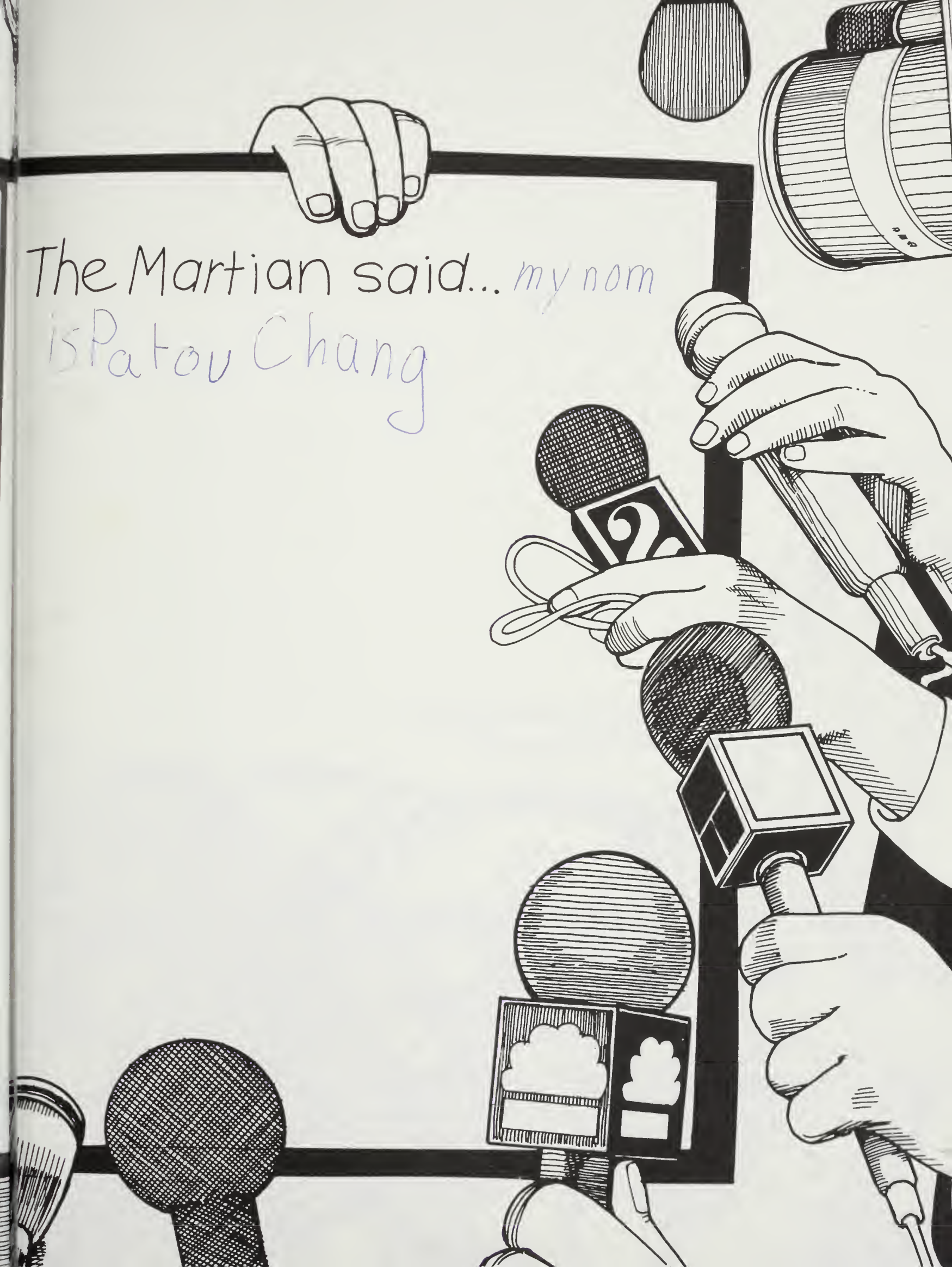
When the Martians landed, you were the only witness in the world. Everyone is clamoring for your drawings and your words to describe the incredible sight you saw.



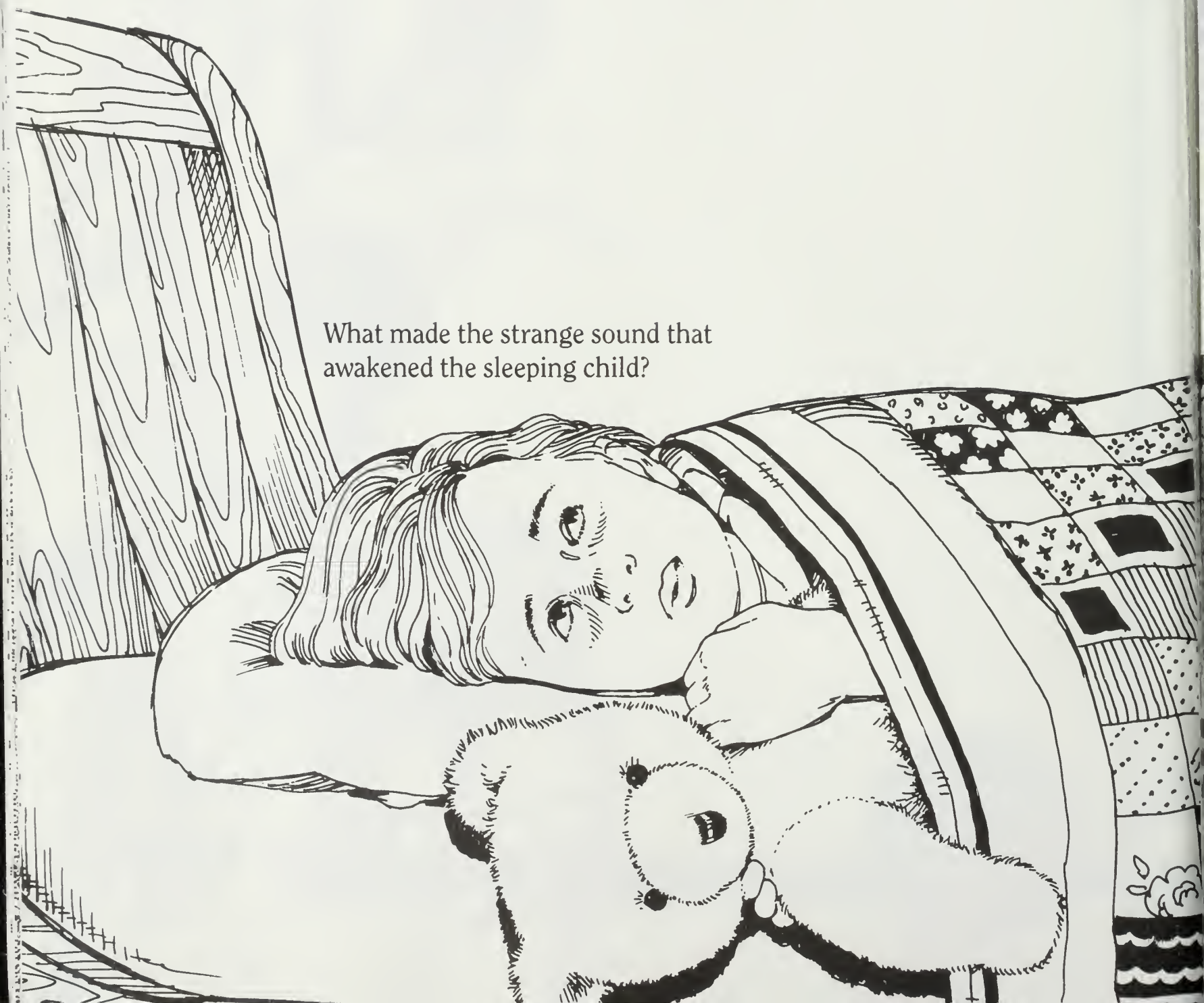
My Drawing of the Martian

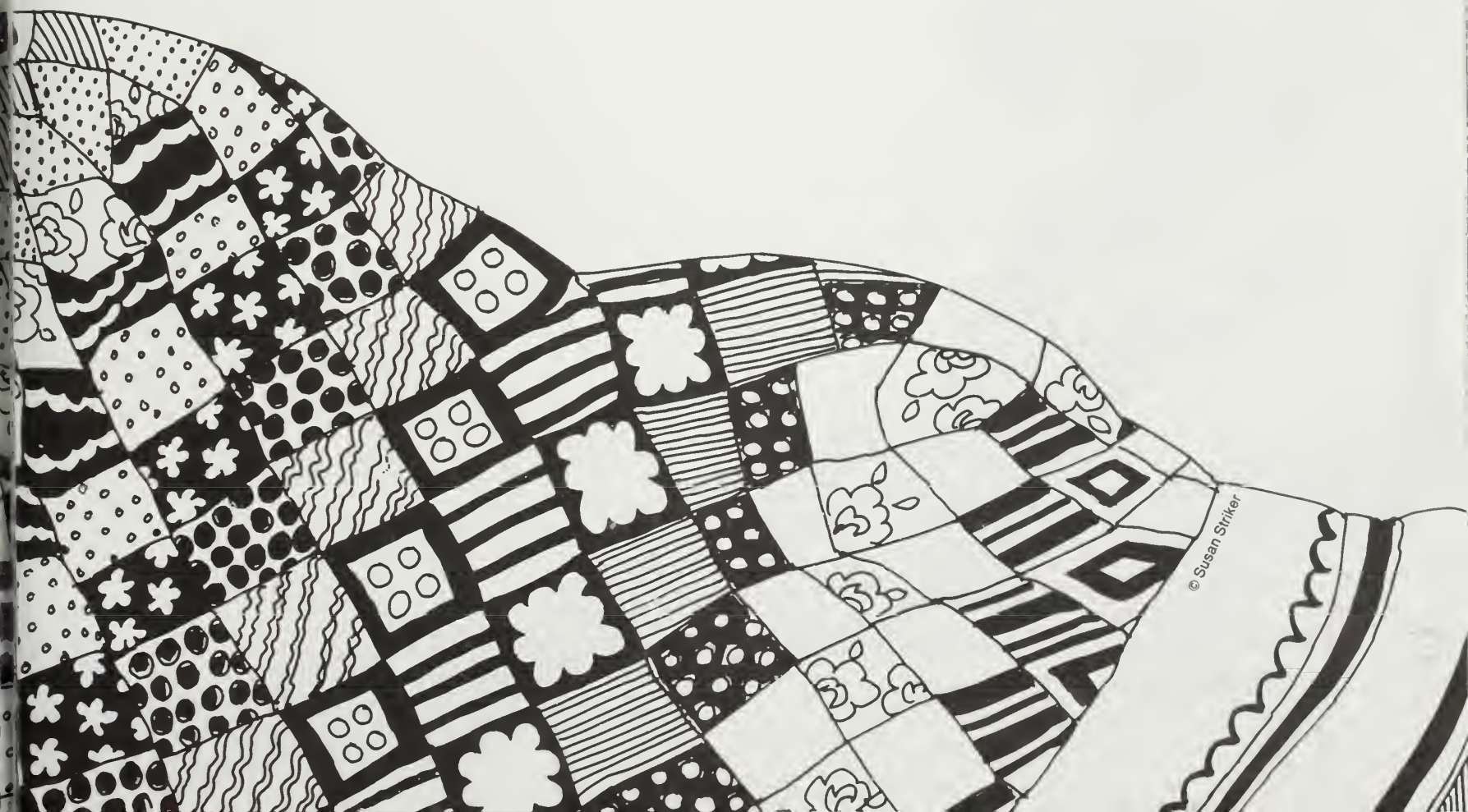


The Martian said... *my nom*
is Patou Chang



What made the strange sound that
awakened the sleeping child?



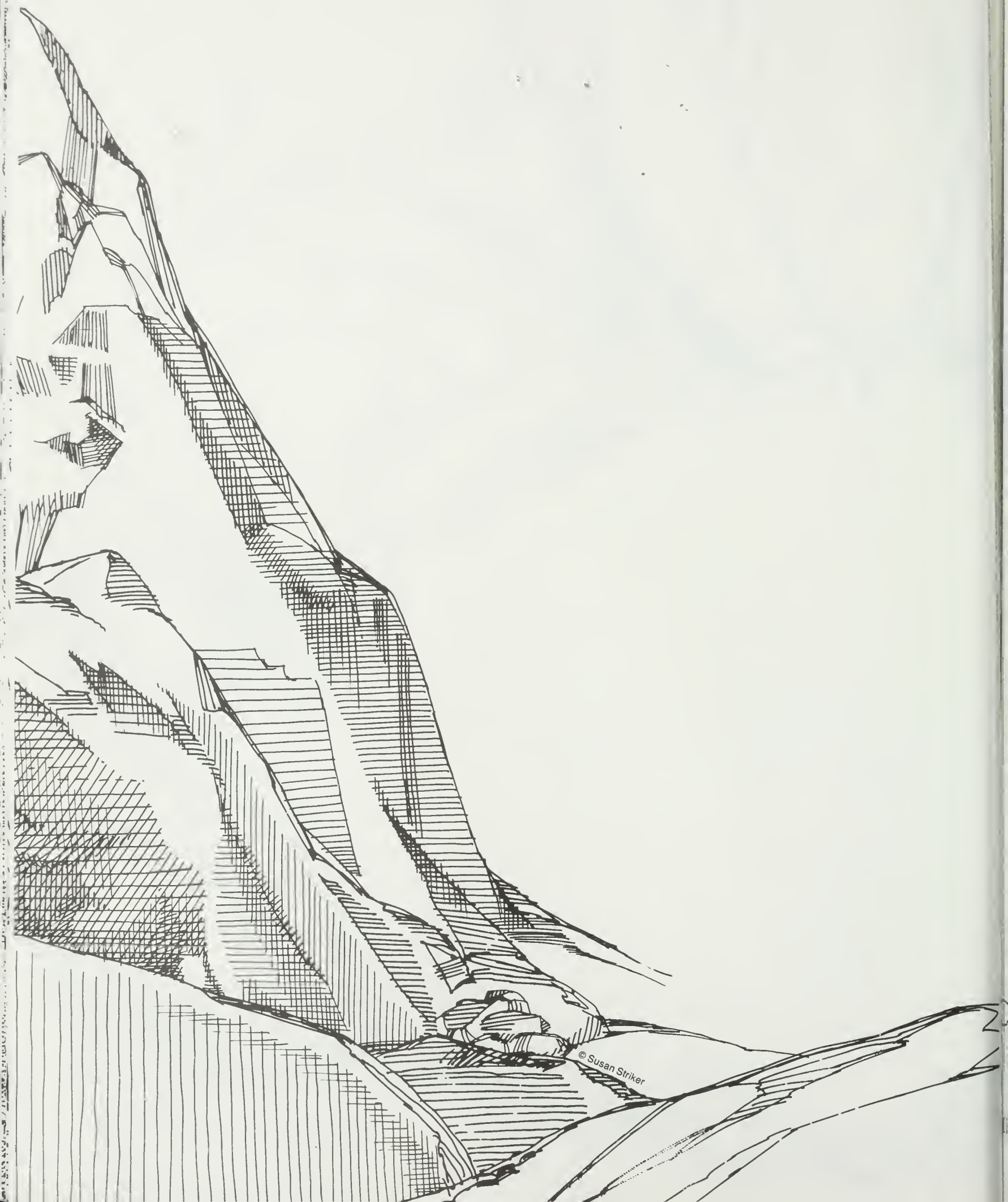


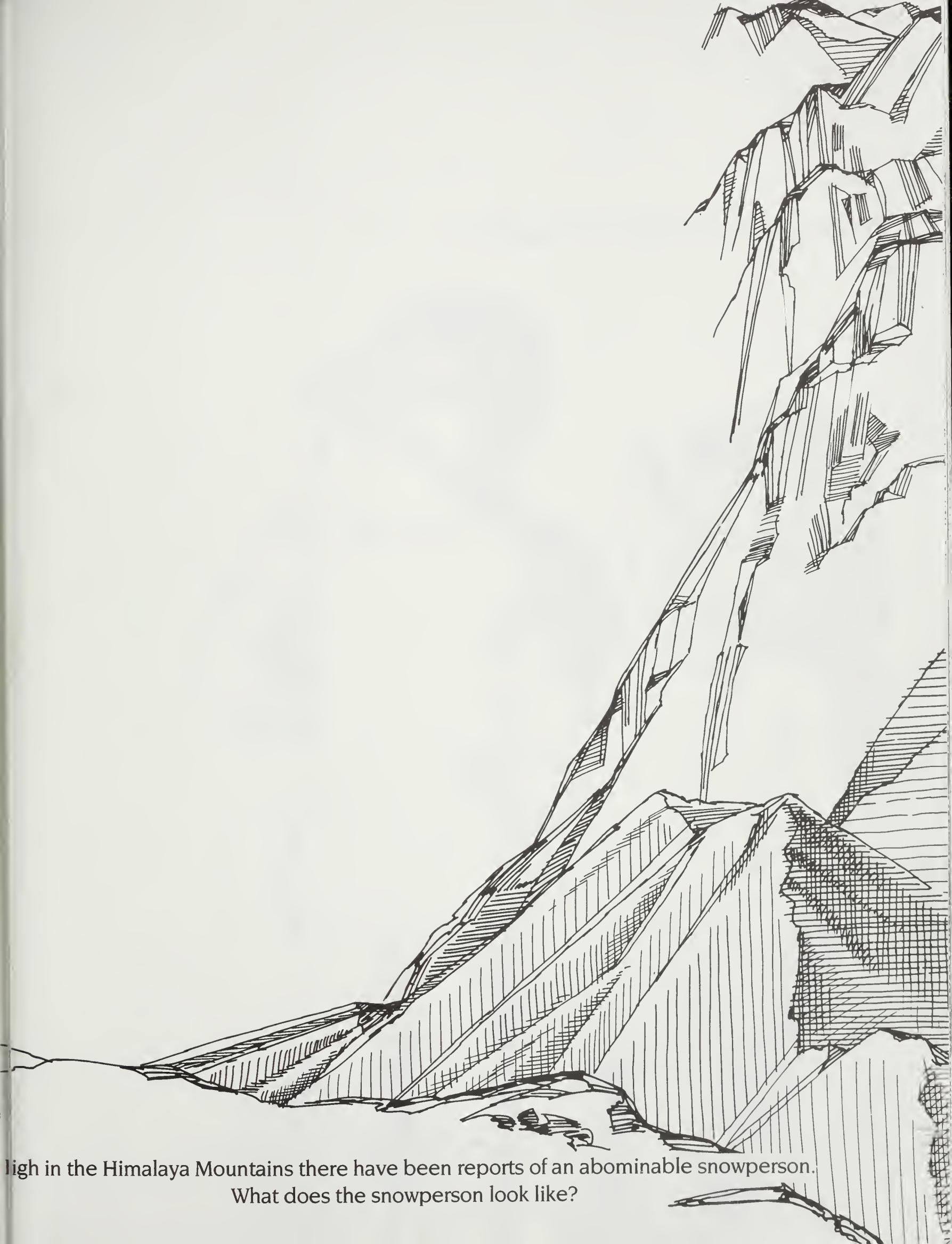
© Susan Striker



*What is in the mystery package that
the butler just delivered?*

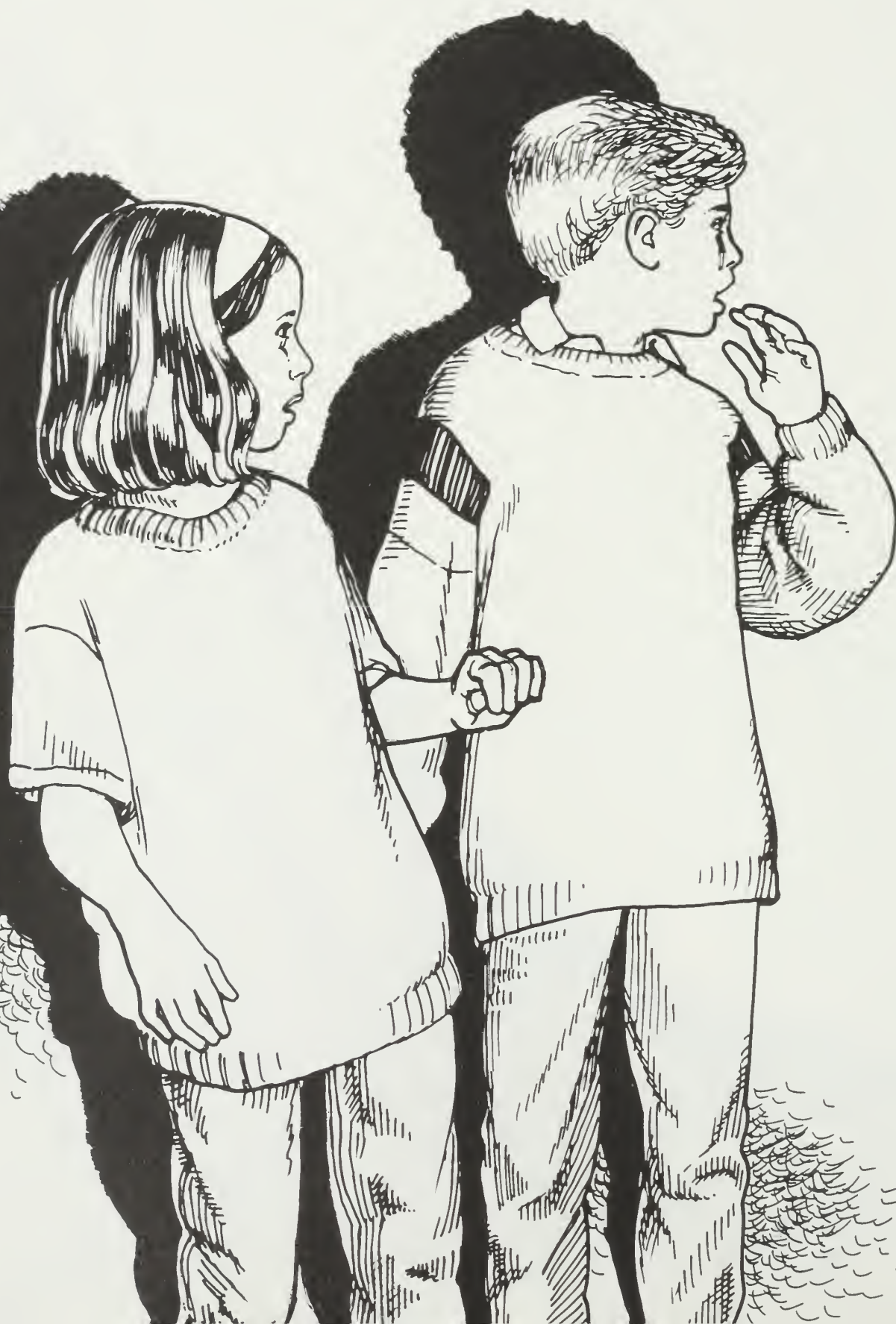




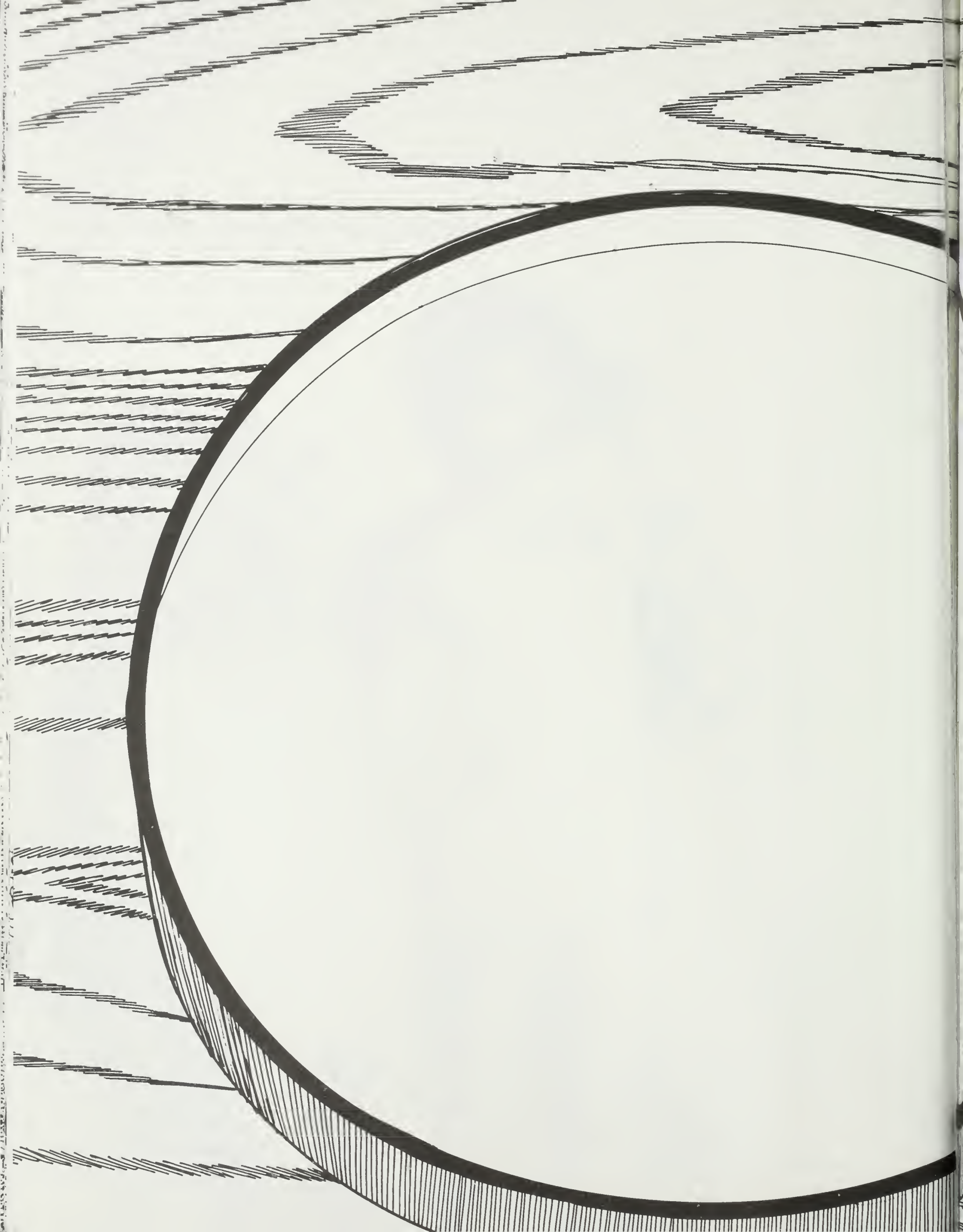


High in the Himalaya Mountains there have been reports of an abominable snowperson.
What does the snowperson look like?

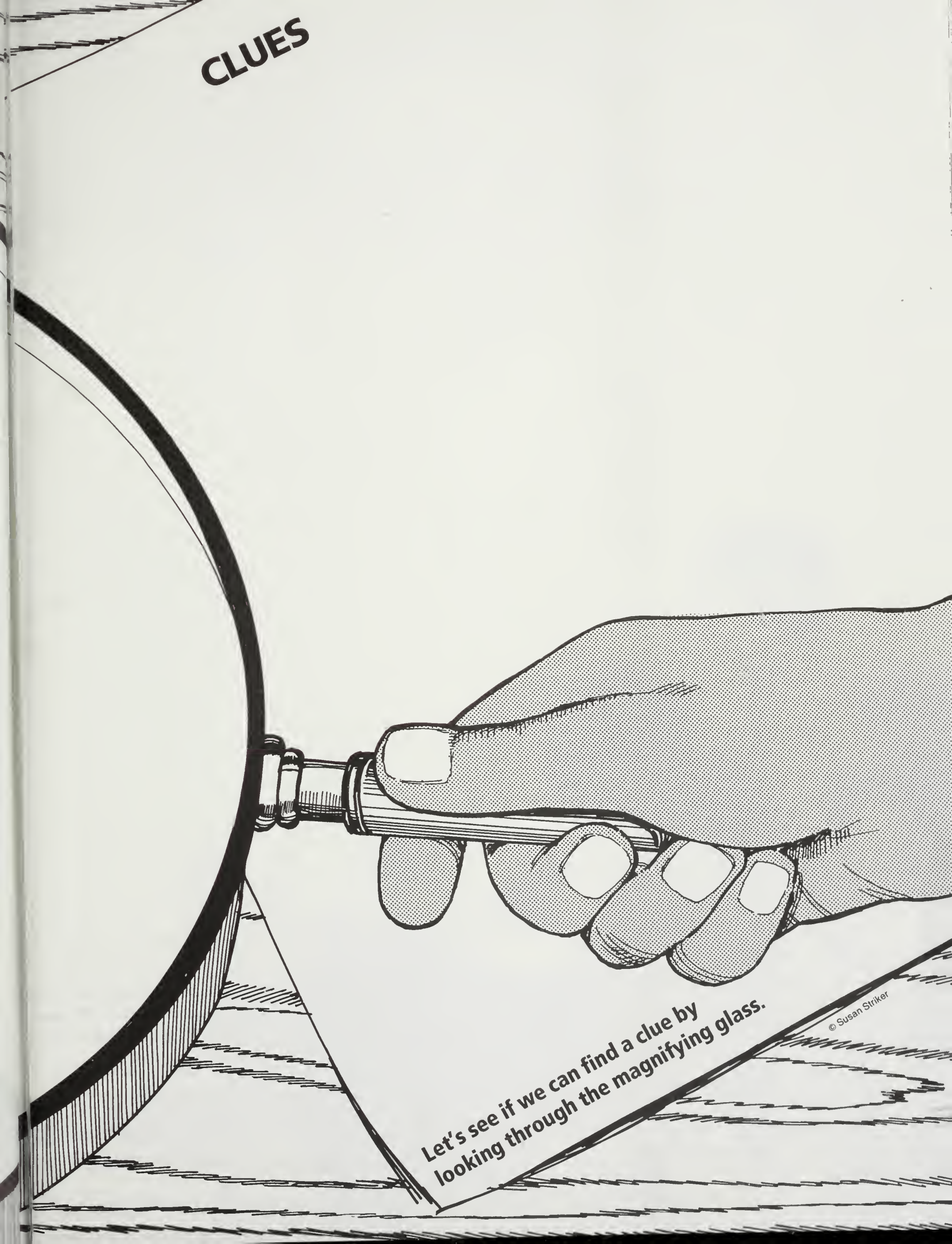
We heard a crackle behind us and stood frozen.





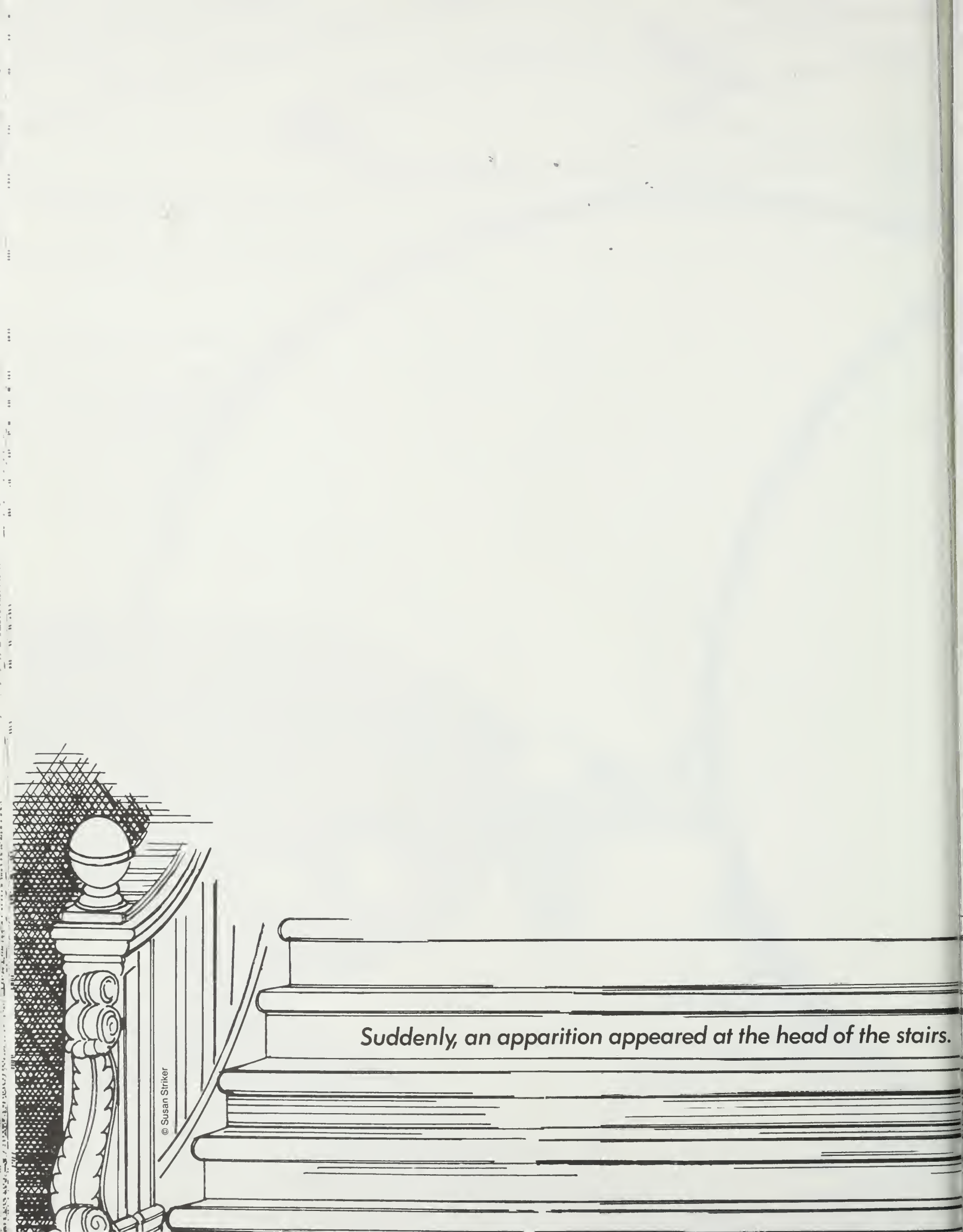


CLUES

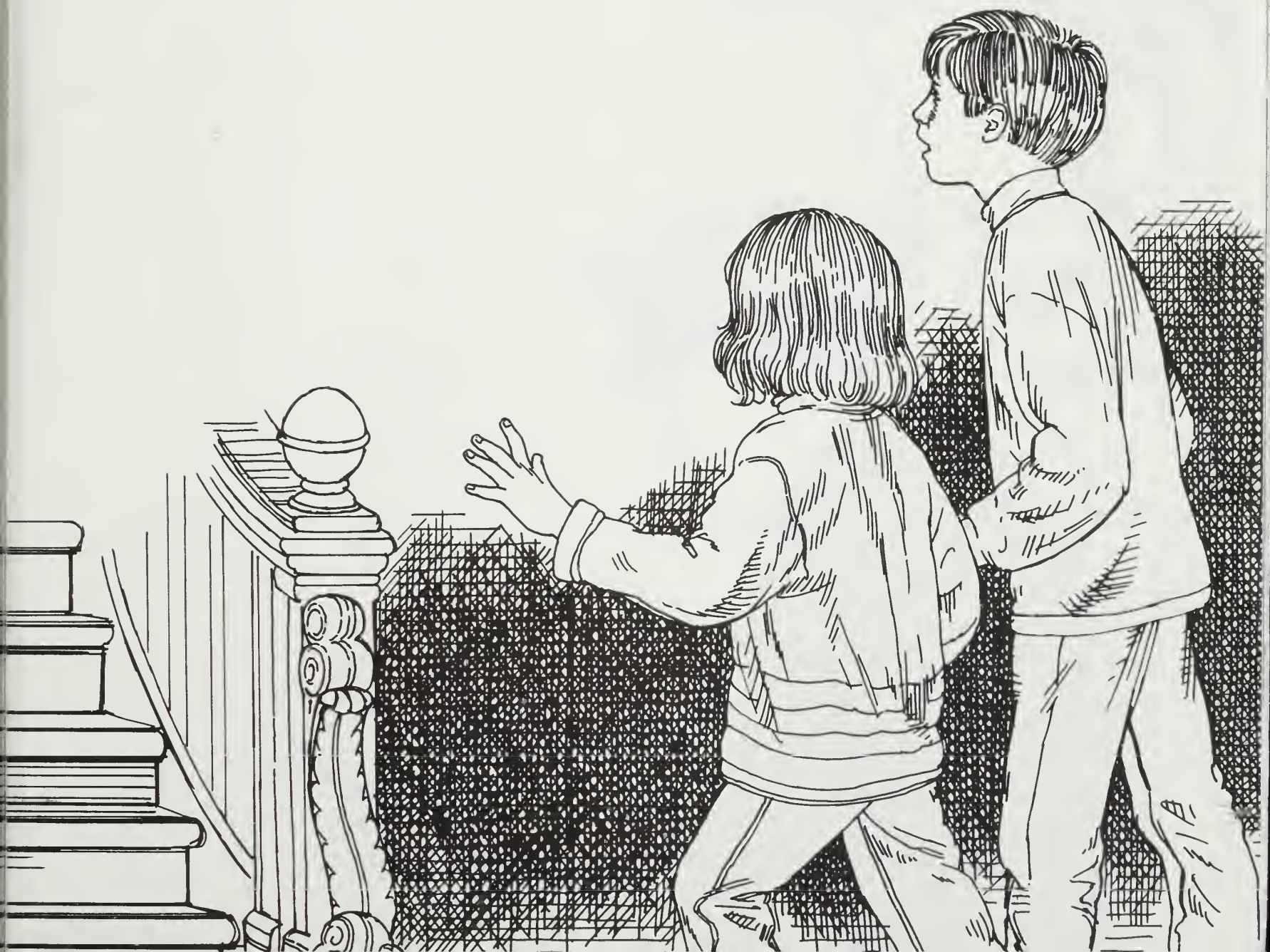


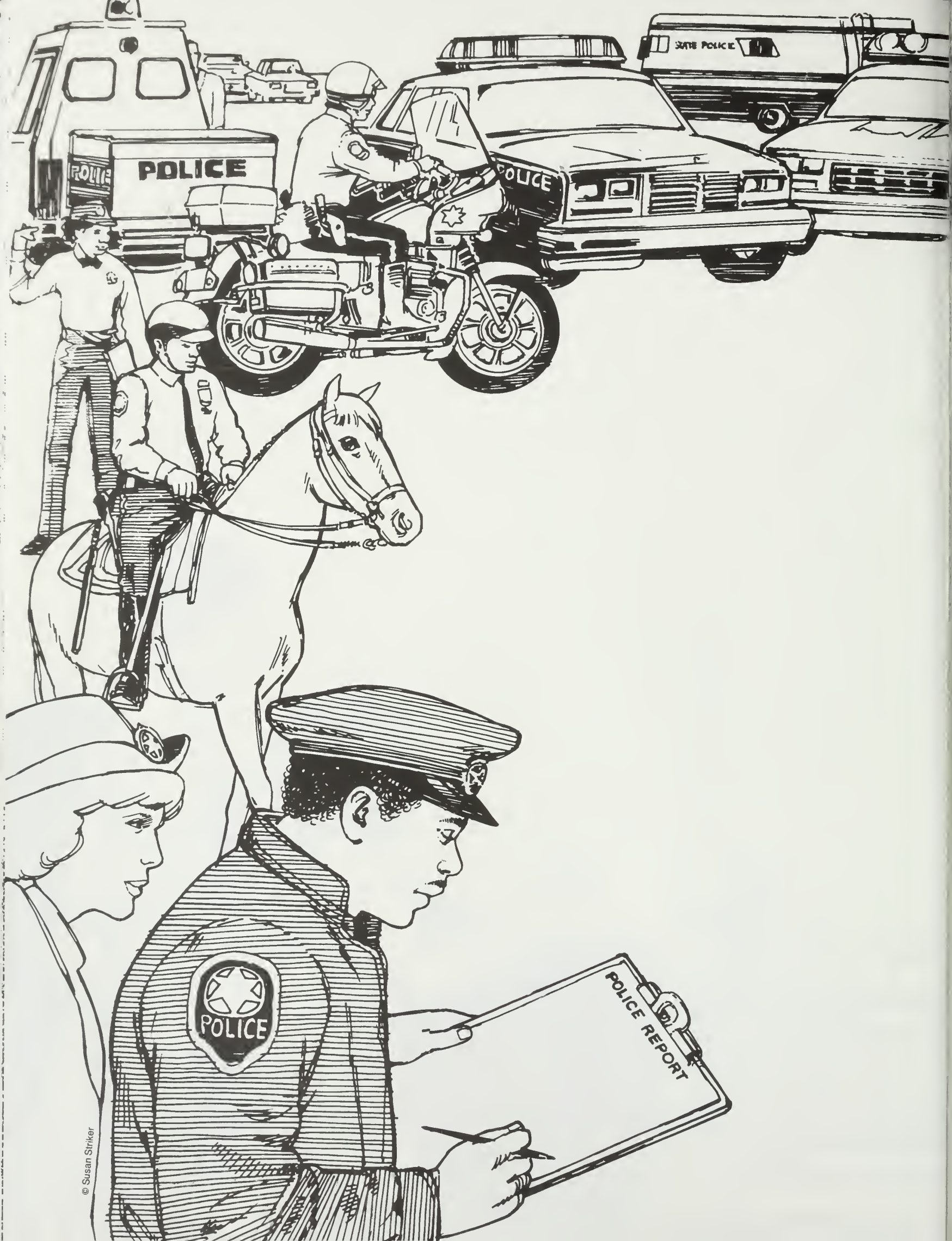
Let's see if we can find a clue by
looking through the magnifying glass.

© Susan Striker



Suddenly, an apparition appeared at the head of the stairs.







This case was so difficult to solve that the captain had to call out every available division of the police force. Who or what are the police looking for?



What do you spy through
the keyhole of suspense?





REWARD!

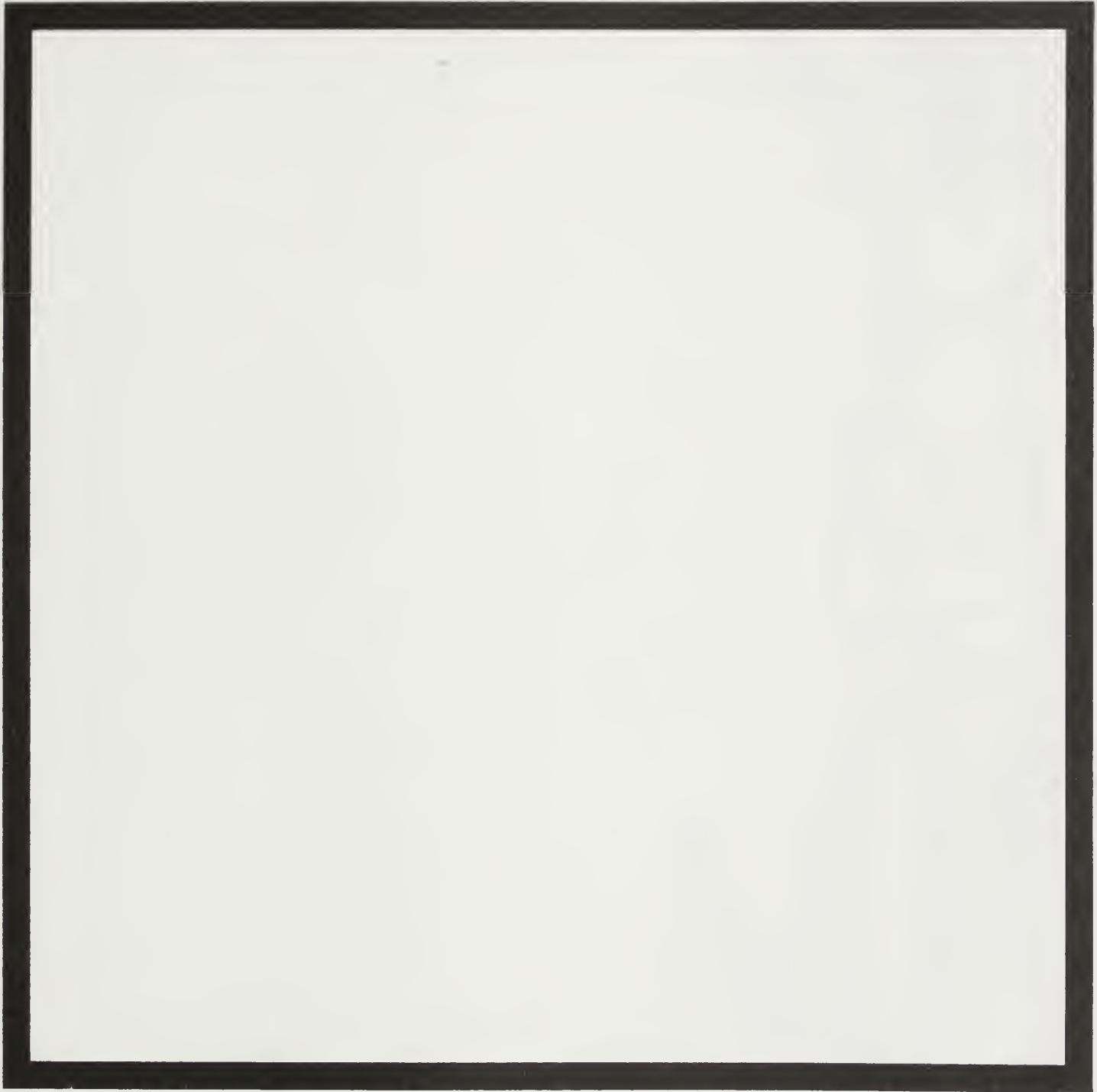


Full Front Portrait

Description of individual _____

If you have seen the whereabouts of the above individual, take no direct action yourself.

\$10,000

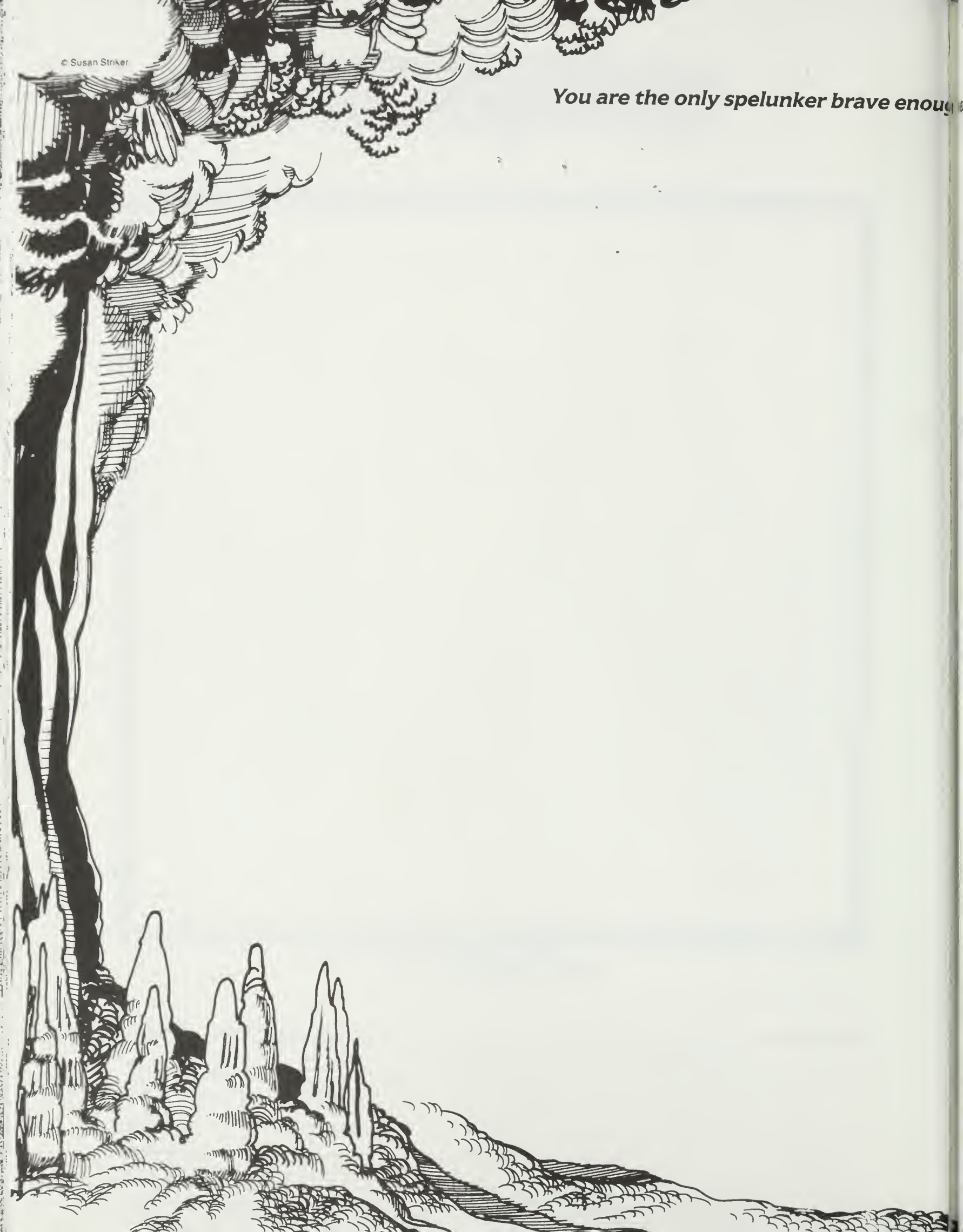


Profile

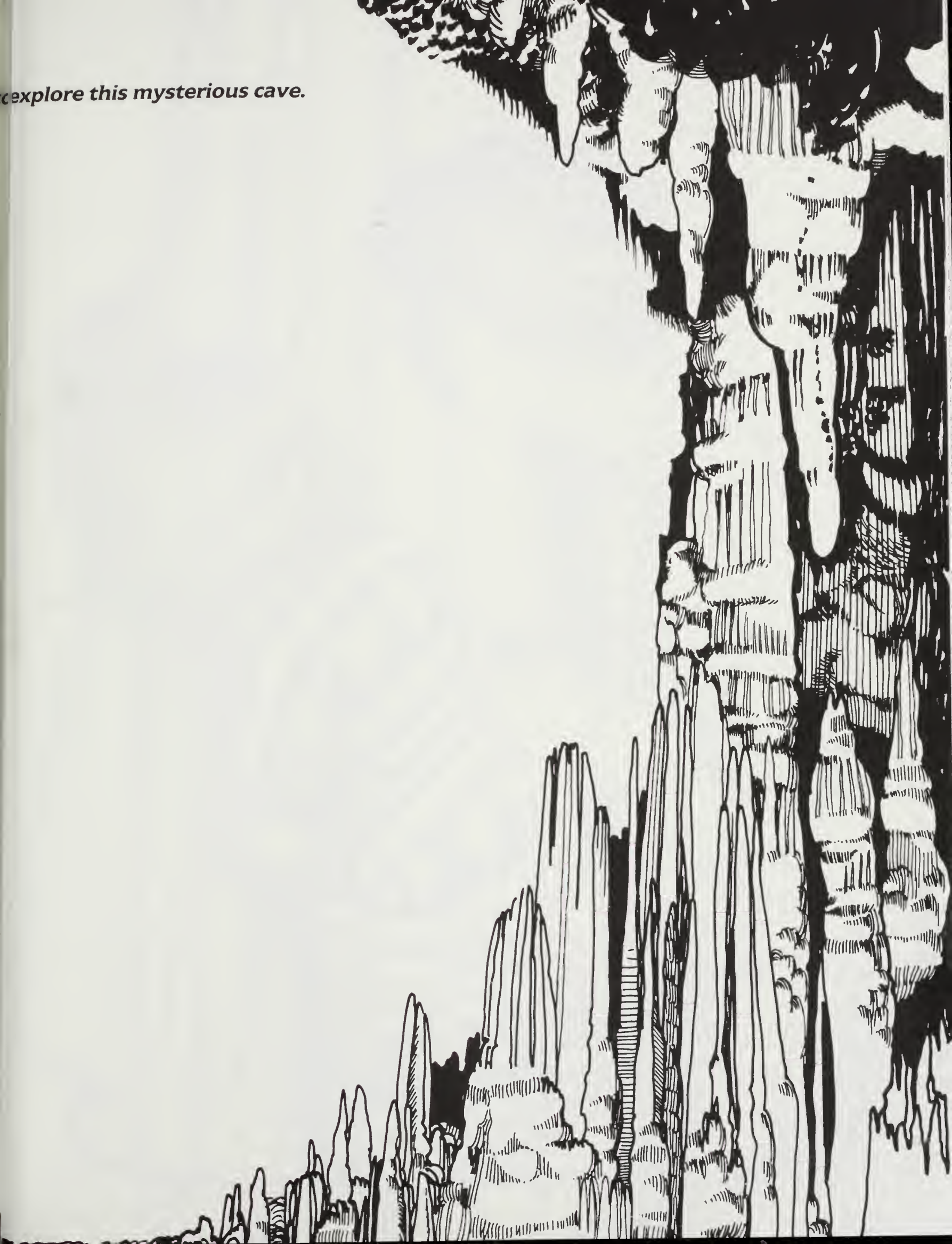
Wanted for _____

Simply contact your local FBI office or local police immediately.

You are the only spelunker brave enough



explore this mysterious cave.



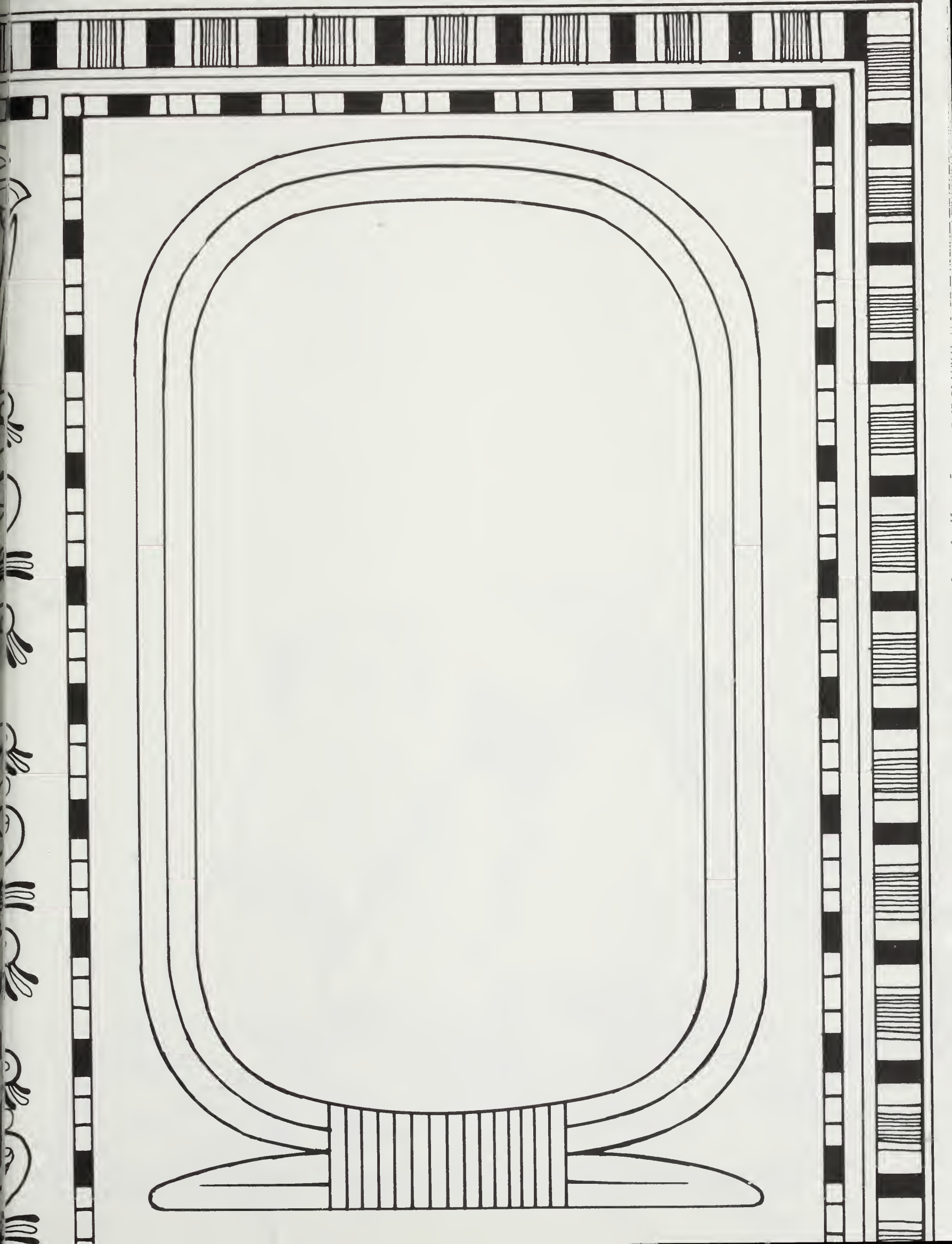


Who or what is behind the billowing curtain?



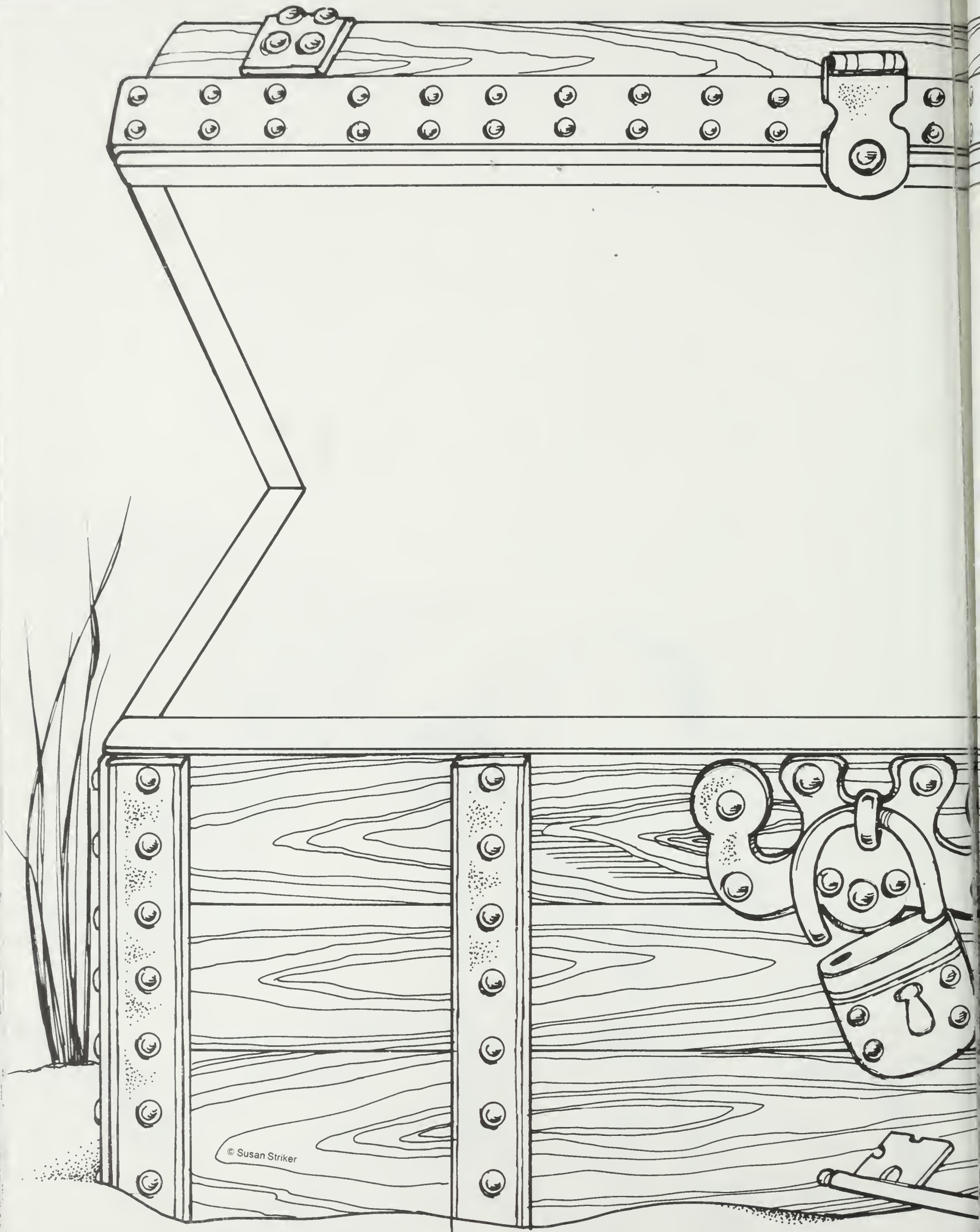


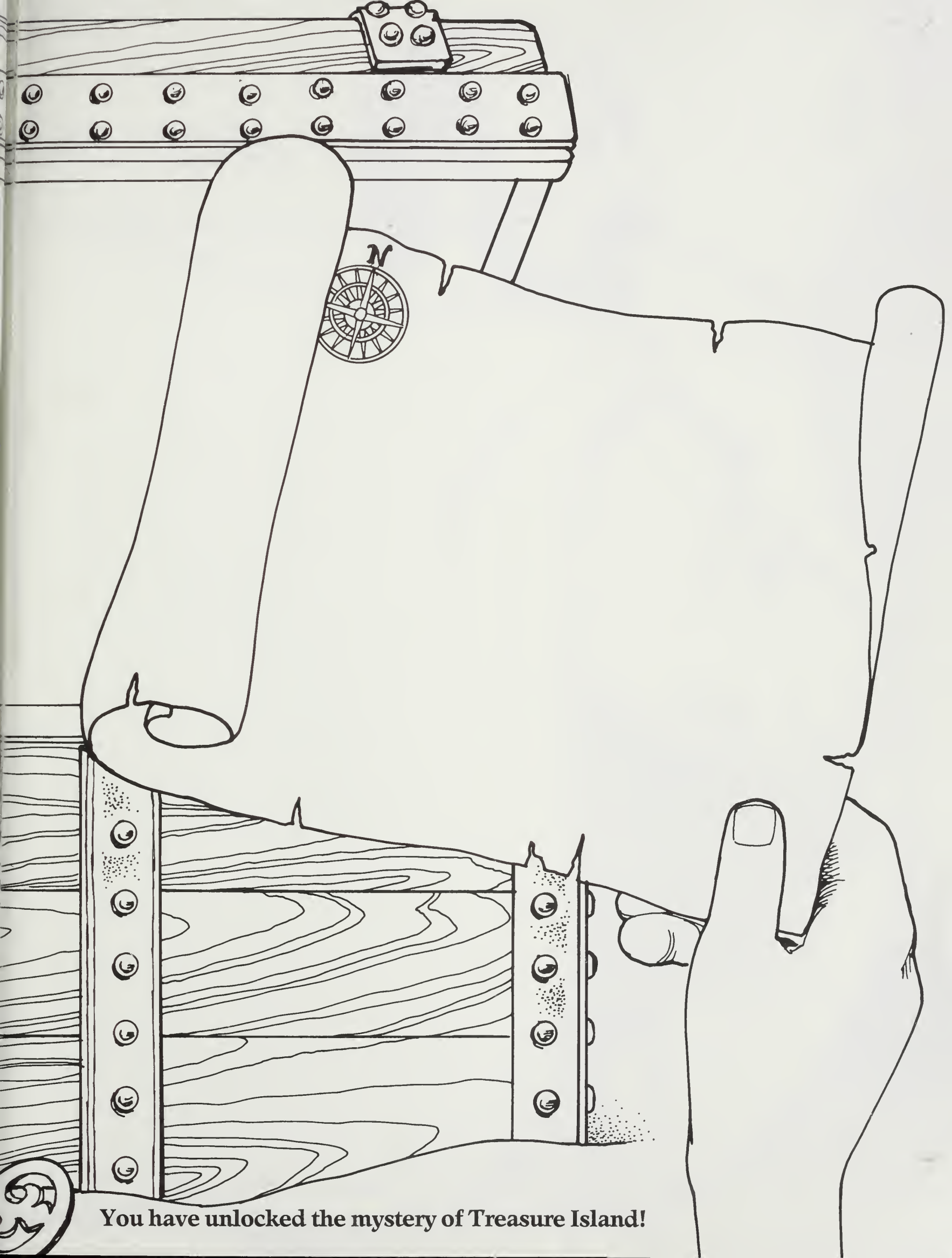
The mystery of ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics was solved when the Rosetta stone was found, providing the key to translation. Can you decode your own name in Egyptian hieroglyphics?



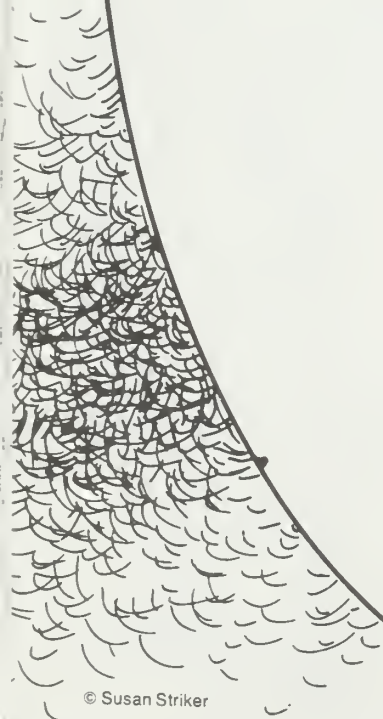
While on stakeout, Detective Jason spotted something very interesting.



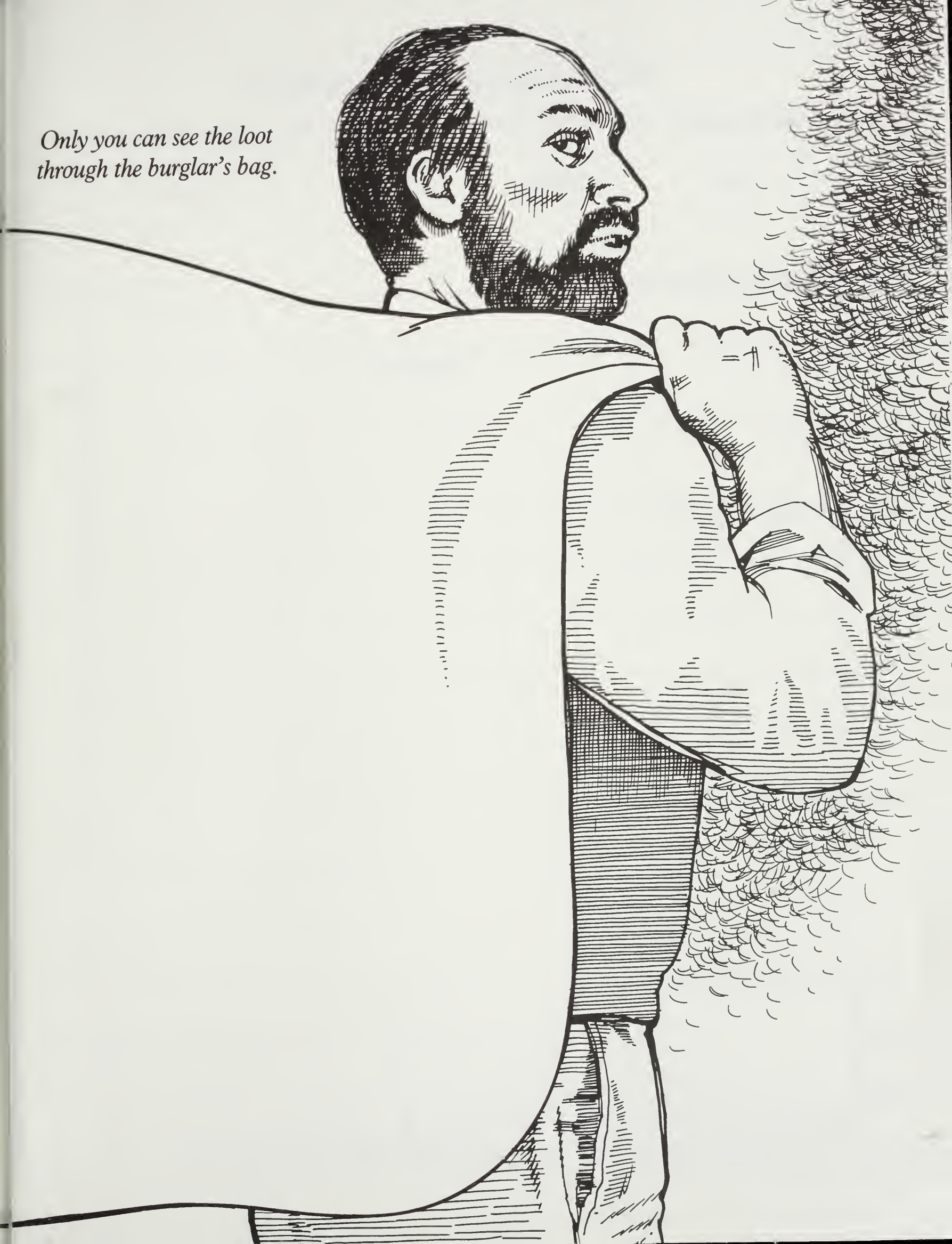




You have unlocked the mystery of Treasure Island!



*Only you can see the loot
through the burglar's bag.*



STOLEN VEHICLE REPORT

Check the appropriate box:

☐ Car

☐ Truck

☐ Boat

☐ Trailer

INSTRUCTIONS: Print clearly and legibly

Owner

Address

Telephone

Cost of vehicle

Physical description of vehicle:

Special features and equipment:

Do you know who took the missing vehicle?

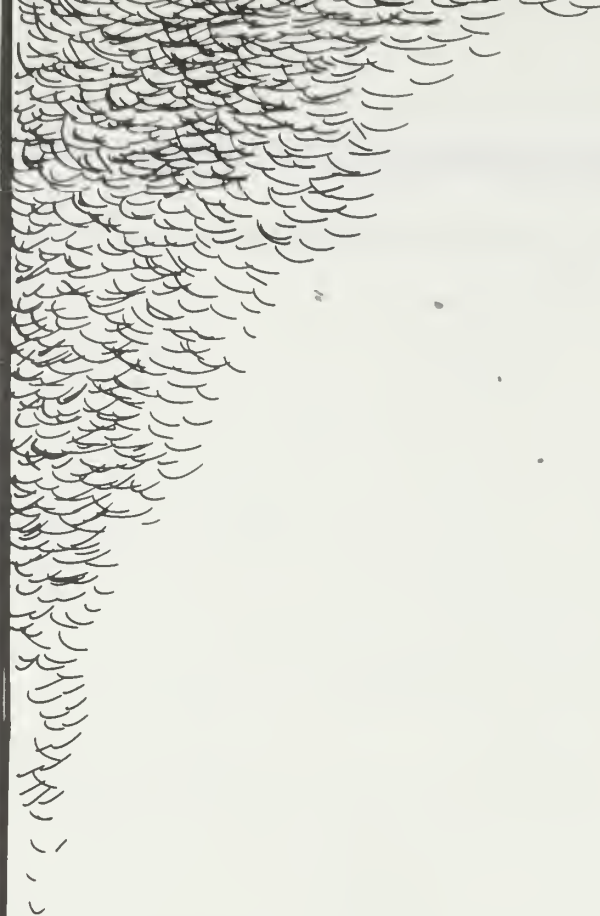
Why?

When?

Draw a Picture of the Stolen Vehicle

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for drawing a picture of the stolen vehicle.

You have been asked to fill out this stolen vehicle report.



opened to reveal...



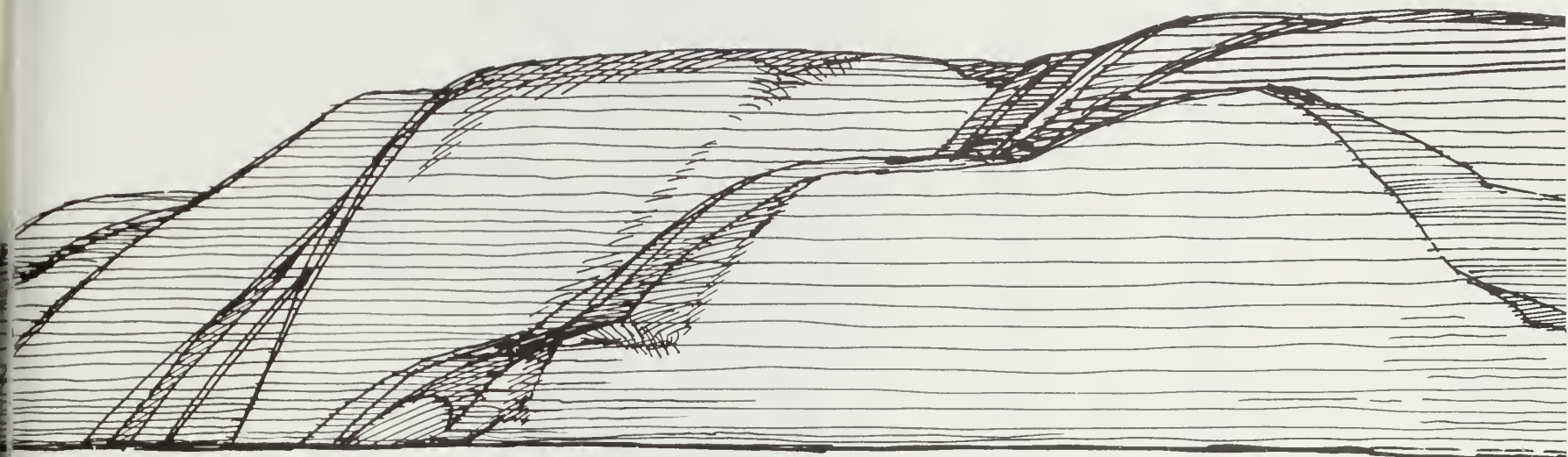


*What on earth can these frightened
children be running from?*



You have just made the first scientifically documented sighting of the mysterious Loch Ness Monster.





© Susan Striker

Uh oh! A spaceship has just landed in your backyard.
Draw it quickly before it disappears, so everyone will know what you see.



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General interest, for ages 6 and older.
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General interest, for ages 6 and older.
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The *Anti-Coloring Books* are international best-sellers and have been favorite creative tools for parents, educators, and therapists since the first book appeared in 1978. They are fully guaranteed to spark the creative impulse in every child.

At last! Another new and innovative addition to the best-selling *Anti-Coloring Book* series. *The Mystery Anti-Coloring Book* offers all the fun and inspiration of the original books, but now children are encouraged to create stories to go with the art they draw. Each "mystery" is arranged on two pages to give children of all ages greater scope for imaginative exploration.

The *Anti-Coloring Books* provide inspiration for anyone who has ever said "I can't draw" or "I don't know what to draw."

Art educator SUSAN STRIKER lives with her son, Jason, and husband, Bob, in Chappaqua, New York.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM FOR THE *ANTI-COLORING BOOKS*

"Revolutionary!" —*Newsweek*

*I like your Anti-Coloring Book.
Because you don't have to color a certain
picture, & you couldn't be wrong for
anything.*
Rebecca, Age 9

"A good solution to the problem of trying to rouse the artist in children without trodding on their creative impulses. . . . Should be issued to every video-glazed moppet in America."

—*Atlanta Constitution*

"Wonderfully innovative . . . will encourage children to think and draw for themselves."

—*American Baby Magazine*

*Dear Anti-Coloring Book,
I think your books are
a work of art.*
Jessica, 10

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THE ANTI-COLORING BOOK
THE SECOND ANTI-COLORING BOOK
THE THIRD ANTI-COLORING BOOK
THE FOURTH ANTI-COLORING BOOK
THE FIFTH ANTI-COLORING BOOK
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